

Administrator,

We look forward to meeting with OMB on Tuesday to discuss ORD's proposed plan for restructuring. Wishing you a happy and restful Thanksgiving Holiday next week.

### **Hot issues**

#### **National Climate Assessment**

The second volume of the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), prepared by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) has been cleared for release on Friday, November 23. Volume I is an assessment of the physical science of climate change and was released in November 2017. Volume II is a technical, scientific assessment of climate impacts, risks, and adaptation that analyzes the effects of the global change on sectors and regions of the United States. 16 EPA staff (from OAR, ORD, OW, and R8) participated as NCA4 authors on 9 chapters. It is policy relevant, but not policy prescriptive, and assesses a range of potential impacts, helping decision makers better identify risks that could be avoided or reduced. It places a strong emphasis on regional information and uses case studies to provide additional context and showcase community success stories. NCA4 was made available for public comment and was reviewed by a committee of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. The Second State of the Carbon Cycle Report (SOCCR-2), a decadal report on the physical, chemical, and biological processes of the global carbon cycle, and the annual report of USGCRP, Our Changing Planet, will also be released on November 23.

#### **Technical Assistance Related to Lead in Fort Wayne, IN**

On November 1, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management contacted ORD regarding an exceedance of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) action level for lead in drinking water in Fort Wayne. In 2011, ORD provided technical assistance to the city after an LCR exceedance, conducting pipe scale analysis at ORD's Advanced Materials and Solids Analysis Research Core laboratory (Cincinnati) and providing interpretation of the results. The state has now requested a copy of that analysis to inform the current situation.

#### **Responding to Indoor Pesticide Misuse with Region 5 and States**

Region 5 requested that ORD present work on surface wipe sampling and analysis and decontamination research for indoor pesticide misuse cases on November 8, 2018 to the Pre-State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group meeting. Attendees included state regulatory agencies from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, 3 University Cooperative Extension service groups, and EPA staff (R5 and OPP). The presentation highlighted the effects that wipe sampling variables have on recovery efficiencies and method performance as well as effective decontamination procedures for pesticide remediation. The meeting provided an opportunity to summarize Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) projects, and increased awareness among the attendees about ORD's technical expertise in this area. A significant outcome from this meeting is the state agencies in attendance plan to evaluate their individual sampling plans and seek input from ORD - adjusting these plans based upon the research presented.

#### **Task Force on Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water publishes Multi-Agency Plan**

On November 8, the report, Plan for Addressing Critical Research Gaps Related to Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water, was released to the public. The report was written by the National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC's) Task Force on Emerging Contaminants. The task force was made up of representatives from NSTC, EPA, National Institutes of Health, NOAA, National Science Foundation, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Defense, National Institute of Standards

and Technology and USGS. It was established in May 2018 to provide NSTC's Office of Science and Technology Policy with expertise about emerging contaminants in drinking water. The report is a response to a Senate report that notes that while emerging contaminants are increasingly being detected in U.S. drinking water systems and prolonged exposure to these contaminants may pose human health risks, the lack of relevant health effects research has hindered efforts to develop and strengthen drinking water advisories or standards for these materials.

**PFAS Research Meeting with Industry**

ORD staff will meet with industry representatives from 3M, the Policy Navigation Group (on behalf of the Responsible Science Policy Coalition), and the American Chemistry Council on November 15-16 to discuss PFAS-related research in Cincinnati, OH.